Numb. 27.

Heraclitus Ridens,

AT

A DIALOGUE between *JEST* and *EARNEST* Concerning the *TIMES*.

From Saturday October the 30*th*. to Tuesday November the 2*d*. 1703.

Jeſt. I Cannot contain my ſelf, 'tis impoſſible, I muſt burſt unleſs you lend me a Helping Hand. Dr. *Nob* has given us his Word *Heraclitus is Mad*, and a dark Room and ſome clean Straw, is the next thing we are to provide for him. What ſay you to the Matter? If the Caſe ſtands ſo with him, we muſt make all the Intereſt we can in *Bedlam*.

Earn. Truly I cannot perceive but the old Fellow's Pulſe beats as regularly as ever I found it, and his Senſes are as much his own as ever; He has been ſomewhat Merry of late, but not without Cauſe, and has broke out into unuſual fits of Laughter on account of the Times, but I am to ſeek for the Reaſon of his being accounted Mad for ſo doing.

Jeſt. And ſo you are like to be; *Nob* is very ſparing of his Reaſons, and is in the right of it to Husband 'em well, ſince he is not overſtock'd with 'em. What would you have the poor Fellow do? I don't wonder at his ſaying *Heraclitus* is Mad, when we fling away ſuch undeniable Authorities, as we have lately Preſented him with, upon a Man of ſuch invincible Ignorance as himſelf.

Earn. Let him go on with his Shew, and call us *Atheiſts*, *Blaſphemers*, *Players*, and *Nonjurant Parſons*, as long as he pleaſes, it is our Buſineſs to ſtand hard and faſt by our Deſign, which is to give People a Light into the Republican Principles, that they may have a juſt Abhorrence of 'em, and to lead thoſe who might otherwiſe be miſguided, into a due Knowledge of their Obedience. That the Crown of *England* may not be a Crown of Thorns to thoſe that wear it, and that this Antient Monarchy may be as Independant of the Subjects that belong to it, as of any Sovereignty whatſoever.

Jeſt. But hark you, Friend of mine, the Subjects are not to be Robb'd of their Priviledges, any more than the Prince of his Prerogatives, each have their diſtinct Rights, and have ſeperate Claims to the Enjoyment of 'em.

Earn. That is to be confeſs'd, and with all deference to my Superiors, I ſee no Reaſon why we ſhould doubt of the Preſervation of our Rights under a Queen that is all Juſtice, and under the Guardianſhip of a Parliament that has and will take ſuch great Care of 'em. But I cannot but think it unmannerly, as well as unneceſſary, for any Perſon to ſpread Jealouſies about the Liberties of the People, when we are Influenc'd by a Reign that gives us more Immunities than ever were Enjoy'd by our Anceſtors. What Acts of Parliament have we not obtain'd for our Security? What are we not to expect farther towards its Eſtabliſhment? Or what has been or will be Neglected to ſettle us upon ſuch a laſting Foundation as ſhall put it out of the Power of the Enemies of our Peace to Diſturb us? For my Part, I can ſee nothing that is of force to awaken us into a Jealouſy of the Contrary, and thoſe that endeavour it, ought to be treated as Common Incendiaries, and Diſturbers of the Publick Tranquillity.

Jeſt. Would I could ſee that once, *Nob*'s Breech would make Buttons again to ſome purpoſe then, and he would have more manners than to compare *the Quality at St.* James's *end of the Town, to the Ladies of* Roſemary-Lane *Precinct*, which Aſſertion of his, is enough to let the Government know what Uſuage Majeſty it ſelf may expect to meet with from him, when he treats thoſe who are near the Queen's Royal Perſon after ſuch a Contemptible Manner.

Earneſt. Never fear it, that worthy Gentleman will be met with at laſt, or I have no Skill in Prophecy—— He has run on a long while without being call'd to an Account, thro' the Clemency of a Government that has born all his Affronts with the utmoſt Patience. But his Eſcapes are beneath the Notice of the Preſs, the Common Executioner is the fitteſt Perſon to Confute him. You told me of your Proofs from *Dick*'s, you gave me but one at our laſt meeting, now is your time to give me the reſt.

Jeſt. I reſerv'd 'em on purpoſe for you. Here are the two others, which I deſire you to Reply to, one at a time. *The Ten Tribes of* Iſrael *Rebell'd againſt* Rehoboam, *and ſet up a King amongſt themſelves, becauſe he refus'd to Eaſe them?*

Earneſt. True it is, the Ten Tribes of *Iſrael* Rebell'd, and made *Jeroboam* their King; and it is true the Lord forbad *Rehoboam* to fight againſt them; but in what Senſe? We muſt then conſider herein two things; 1. The Action. 2. The Evil in that Action. The Action was the making *Jeroboam* King, and this Action was good, and was from the Lord. 1 *Kings* 11. 31. And in reſpect of this, *Jeroboam* was their lawful King. But the Evil in that Action which was their falling off, and withdrawing their Obedience from *Rehoboam*, and Rebellion was from themſelves, their Proud and Corrupt

Corrupt Natures; and in reſpect of this, *Jeroboam* was an Uſurper, as he confeſſeth himſelf. 1 *Kings* 12. 27. And if we look into 1 *Kings* 12. 19. and 2 *Chron.* 13. 6. we ſhall then learn that both the Ten Tribes and *Jeroboam* himſelf are denounced Rebels unto this Day.

But here our Quick-ſighted *Obſervator* may Reply, The Scriptures ſay not that this Action only of making the King was from the Lord, but this Thing, that is, the whole Buſineſs was from the Lord; and therefore the withdrawing their Obedience, and Rebellion was alſo from the Lord.

We Rejoyn; 'tis true, their Rebellion may alſo be ſaid to be from the Lord; But how? *Non voluntate Dei Efficiente, ſed permittente*; Not that this was wrought or approv'd by the Lord, but becauſe this, as all other Sins are, was permitted and ſuffer'd by the Lord. To Conclude with this Note; God's Will impoſeth ſuch a Neceſſity on the ſecond Cauſes, that nothing can be done but according to the ſame; and yet Man's Will worketh as of it ſelf, ſo that it cannot be excus'd in doing Evil, by alledging that it is God's Ordinance.

Jeſt. Now for the ſecond Argument; *Jehu Conſpired againſt* Joram, *and Kill'd him*, 2 Kings 9. 14. 24. *and was approv'd and rewarded by God.* 2 Kings 10. 30. *Therefore to Kill a wicked Prince is lawful.*

Earn. This Act of *Jehu* was extraordinary, and by the particular Command of God, as appeareth 2 *Kings* 9. *v.* 6 and 7. Therefore what *Jehu* did in obedience unto the ſpecial Reveal'd Will of God, cannot be a Pattern for us. So *Peter* Martyr, Loc. com. Claſſ. 4. c. 20. *God Arm'd not only* Jehu *againſt his Lord and Maſter; which becauſe it was peculiar, and extraordinary, is not to be drawn into Example.* And a little after, he has this Obſervation for our *Obſervator*: "If it be lawful "for the People to Depoſe thoſe who Govern- "unjuſtly, then verily no Princes or Kings "ſhall ever be ſafe; for tho' they Rule well "and uprightly, yet perhaps they do not ſa- "tisfy the People.

Jeſt. So much by way of Inſtruction to thoſe that are Capable of Receiving it; I can't part with this *Nob* for the Heart and Soul of me. Obſerve but his Impudence here, he is ſo little under any Apprehenſion of a Preſentment himſelf, that he is culling Paſſages out of other People's Books in order to get them Preſented.

Earn. I have a better Opinion of his Headpiece than ever I had, on account of his drawing in a Pamphlet of his own Head and Shoulders, to promote the Sale of it, and have it read; it's a Real Lampoon upon the Botcher that Tack'd it together, and ſticks ſcurvily upon the Publiſher's hands, or it would never be skrew'd in by way of Advertiſement after this manner. An old Collection of *Nath. Thompſon*'s Songs, that were Publiſh'd in King *Charles* the ſecond's Days, new Diſh'd up, and Garniſh'd with a parcel of Quotations out of *Heraclitus*, which *Nob*, like a greaſie Cook, ſerves his Gueſts with, for want of an Entertainment of his own.

Jeſt. A merry ſort of a Grig, truly, where do you think he is for ſearching for Treaſon againſt the City of *London*, but under the Women's Petticoats? It's *Crimen læſæ Civitatis*, to ſay, the *Citizens Wives have the Out-ſide of the Bed Granted 'em*, He did not find this in *Hengam Magna*, or *Hovedon*, certainly if he did, we muſt knock under, and own him to be unanſwerable.

Earn. He has ſome damn'd Contrivance in his Head, this getting in with the City, ſhews he has more hopes of Preferment there, than at Court. He would have made as good a Whiffler at *Brewers-Hall* laſt Lord Mayor's-Day, as the beſt Dray-Man of 'em all, and they cannot but oblige him with that Poſt next time, for ſtanding up in Defence of their Fellow Citizens, who are in no Danger of being Hurt, unleſs Preaching up Obedience to the Magiſtracy is detrimental to their Conſtitutions.

Jeſt. He had no thoughts of himſelf, or he would never have mention'd Preſentments, and his Printer, had he been us'd to look at Home, would have omitted letting him talk of other Books, when his own are liable to ſuch Exceptions. Here's the ſecond Volume of *State Poems* in my Hand, Are there not more Dangerous Reflections upon the Government, more Leudneſs and Immorallity, more Wicked and Blaſphemous Lines in it, than in any Book of Poems that has come out in Print next to the late Lord *Rocheſter*'s? And yet the very Man that made this Collection and ſet it forth, *Nob* that is picking Holes in other People's Works, is in no wiſe worthy of a Preſentment; and *Tullia and Octavia*, &c. the Writings of the Author of the *London-Spy*, are of no manner of Offence to the City, when the laſt abounds with nothing but the Contempt and Ridicule that belongs to it. For my part, to Curry Favour with him, I'll write the ſecond Part of *Madam Coming Sir*, and then the Grand Jury will have nothing to ſay to me, that is the only way this Guide of an Author points out to me to Travel in.

Earn. His Printer, had he known his Deſigns, would certainly never have made ſuch a Miſtake, as to put in the Advertiſement of thoſe two Books, but Higledy Pigledy is the Way with your Commonwealths-Men, and *The Riſe and Fall of Madam Coming-Sir*, *a Pſalter for Children*, *the Revels of the Gods*, *Battle without Bloodſhed*, the *Next Preſentation of two Livings*, make an Excellent Medly for a Republican Entertainment.

Jeſt. A pleaſant ſort of a Fellow, and of Excellent Projection. He finds his Attendance at the *Lobby*-Door is likely to ſtand him in but little ſtead, and is turn'd Parſonage-Monger. Poor *Nob*, I ſhould have reaſon to Imagine he was *run Stark Mad*, if we did not know that he was of too many Minds to be in that Conditian, he has nothing now to do but to ſet up for a Procurer of the Gift of Preaching too, and then he cannot be ſaid to fall ſhort of *Simon Magus* his Accompliſhments.

Printed by *D. Edwards* and Sold by the Bookſellers of *London* and *Weſtminſter*. 1703.